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Flannery et al.

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(54) **FLEXIBLE FOLDING INFANT BATHER**

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(51) **Int. Cl.**

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A47C 4/28	(2006.01)
A47D 9/00	(2006.01)
A47K 3/03	(2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC ***A47K 3/064*** (2013.01); ***A47C 4/283*** (2013.01); ***A47D 9/005*** (2013.01); ***A47K 3/03*** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
USPC 4/586, 587, 589, 590, 585, 546; 220/9.1–9.4; 297/56, 45; 248/165, 166, 248/150, 164; 5/655, 101, 102
See application file for complete search history.

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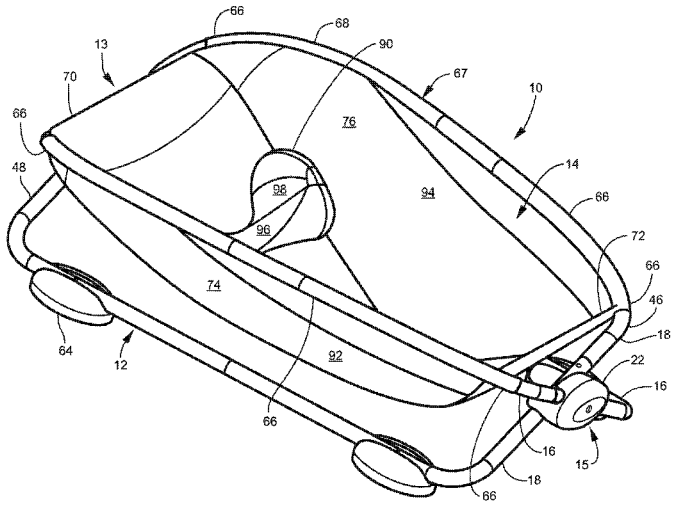
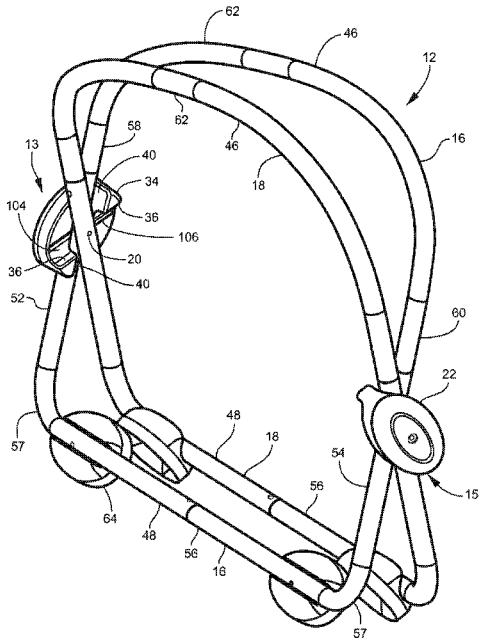
(57) **ABSTRACT**

An infant bather having a flexible water bath supported by a frame. The frame has a scissors fold such that the flexible water bath folds one way to an open configuration for bathing an infant and folds the other way to a closed configuration for storage.

14 Claims, 11 Drawing Sheets





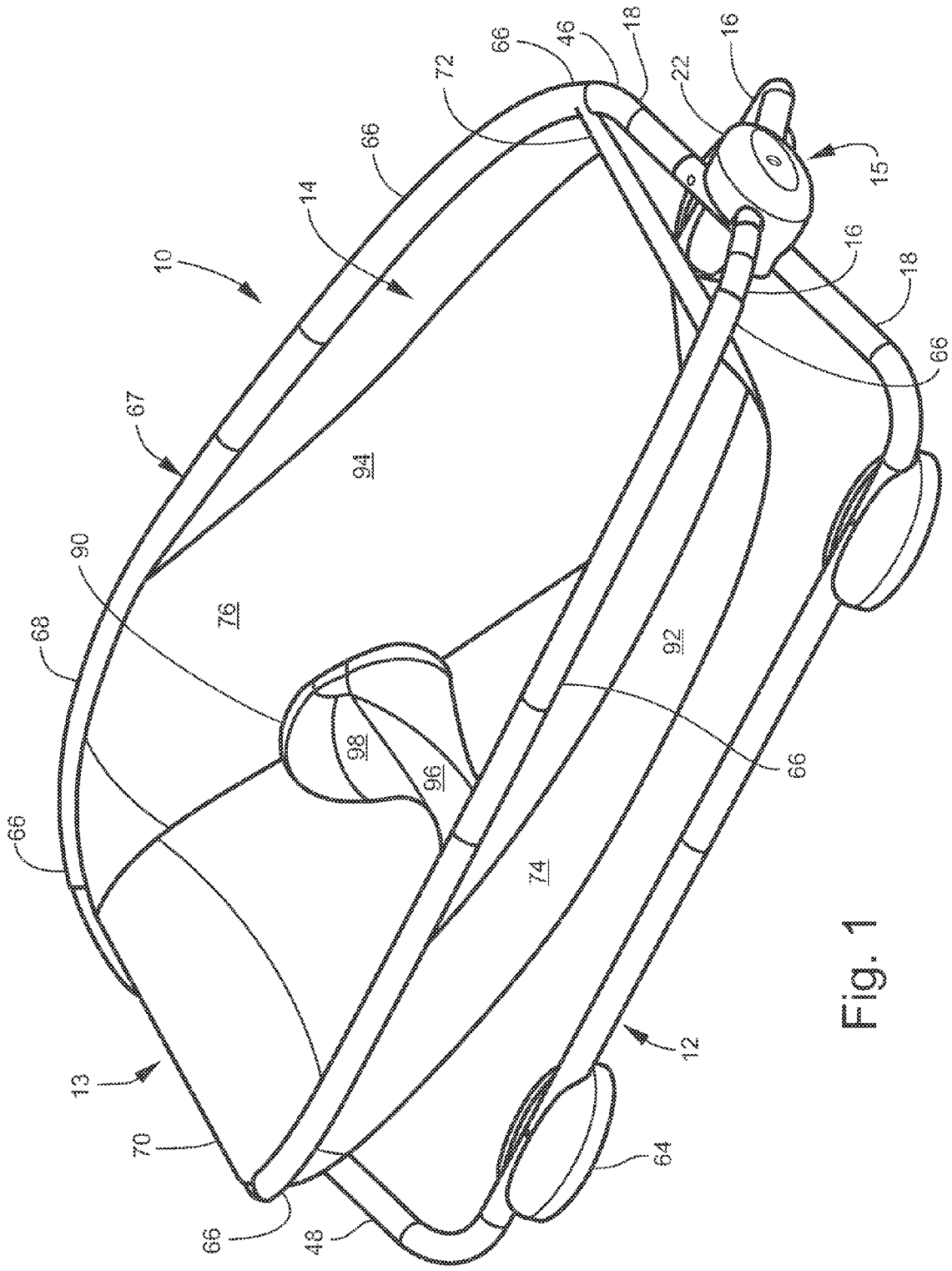


Fig. 1

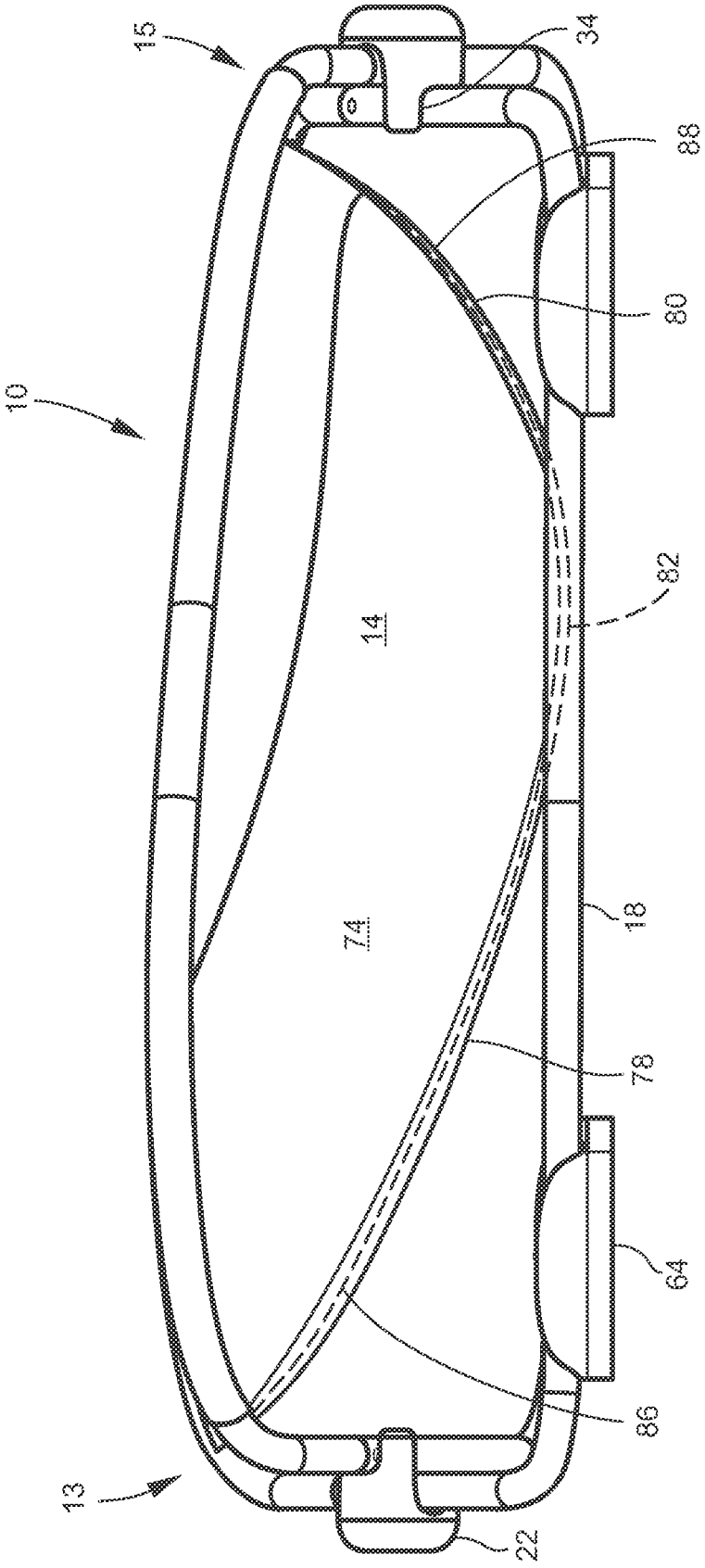


Fig. 2

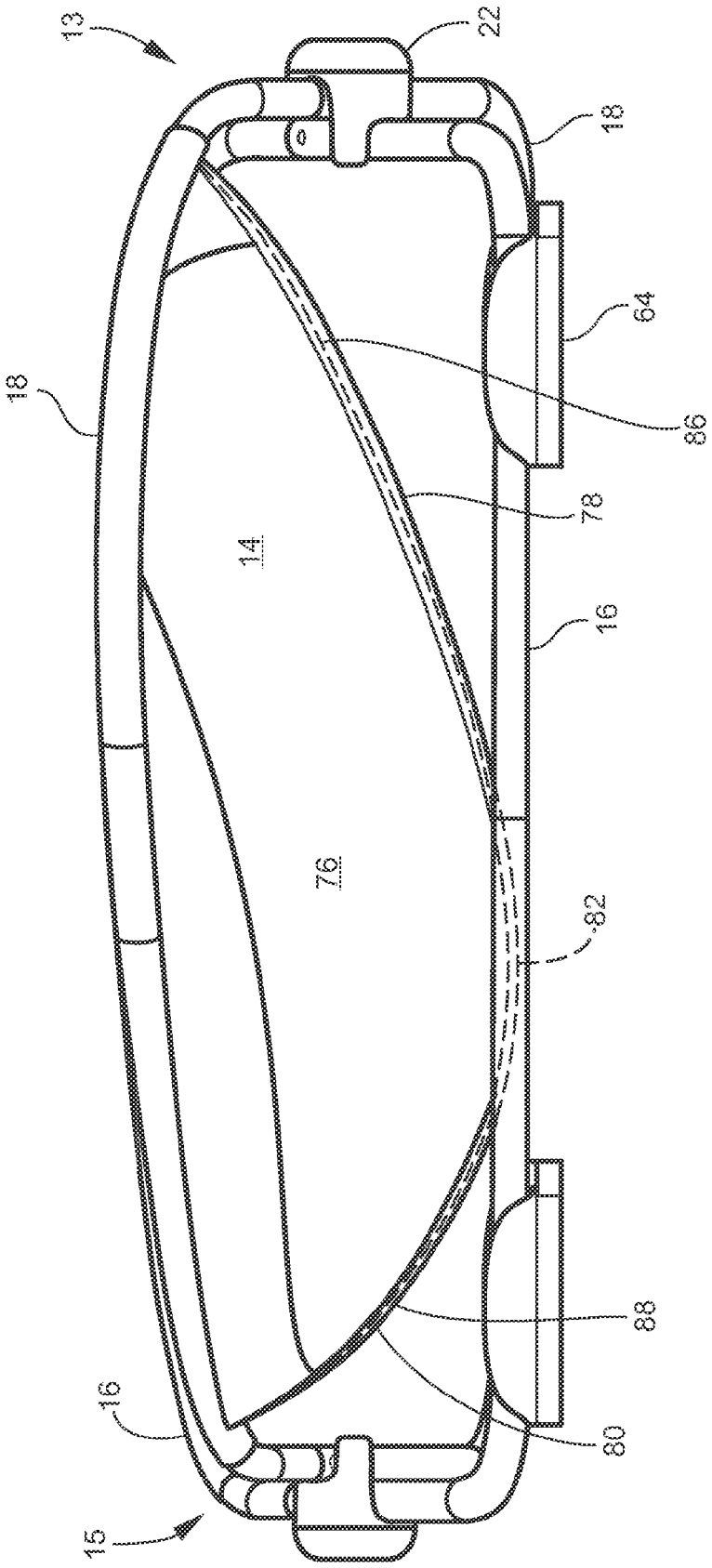


Fig. 3

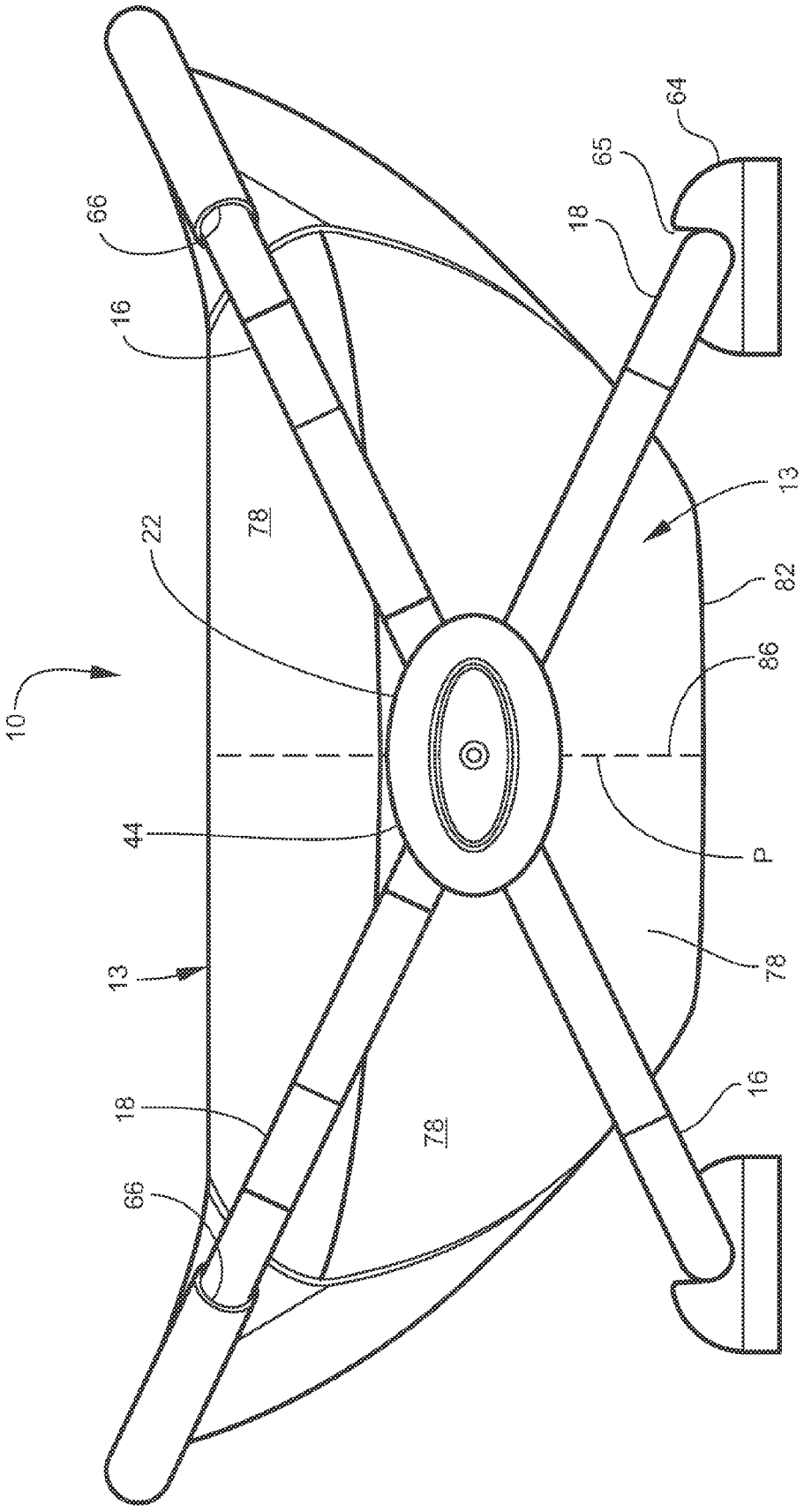


Fig. 4

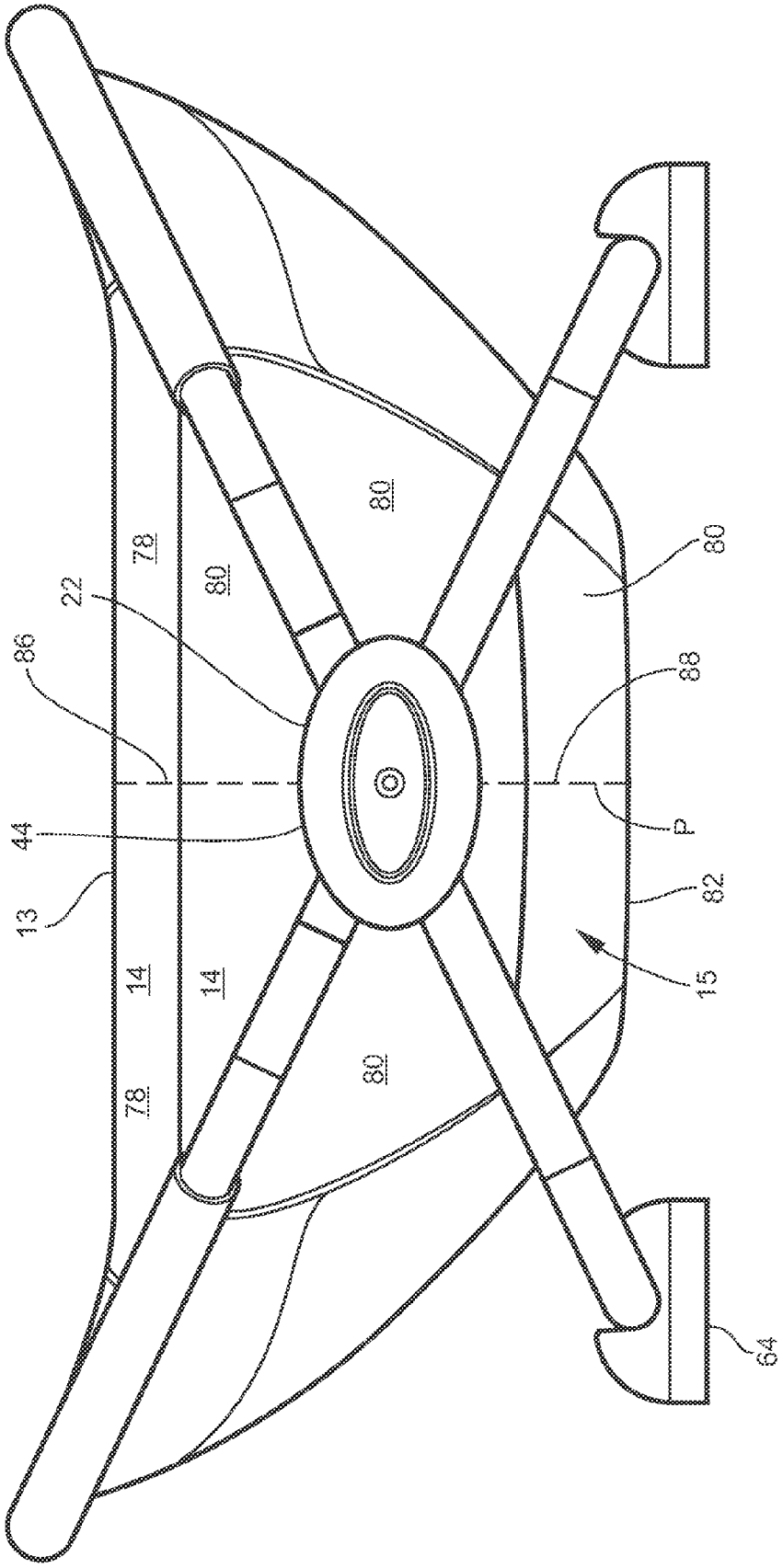


Fig. 5

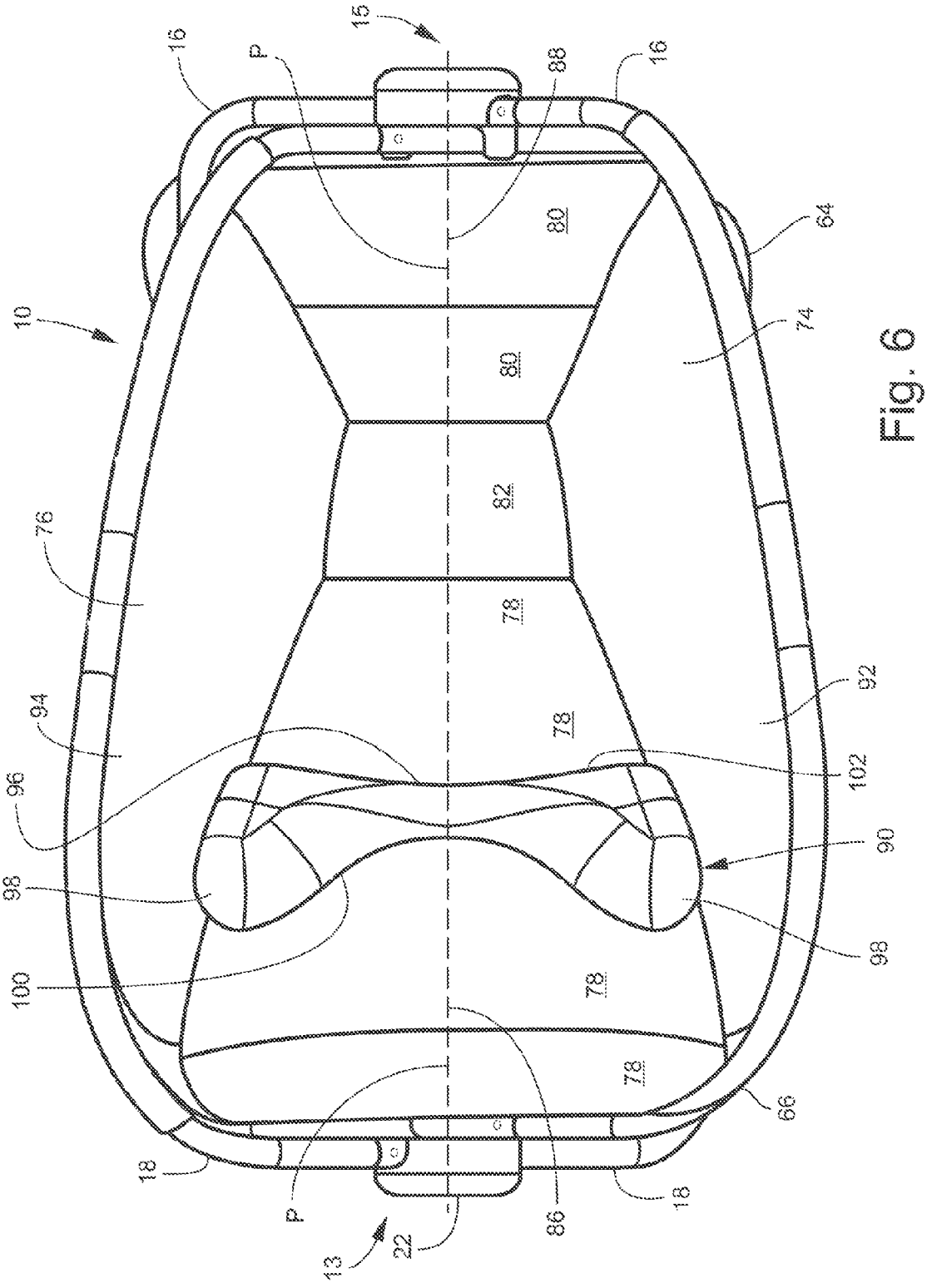

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Fig. 6

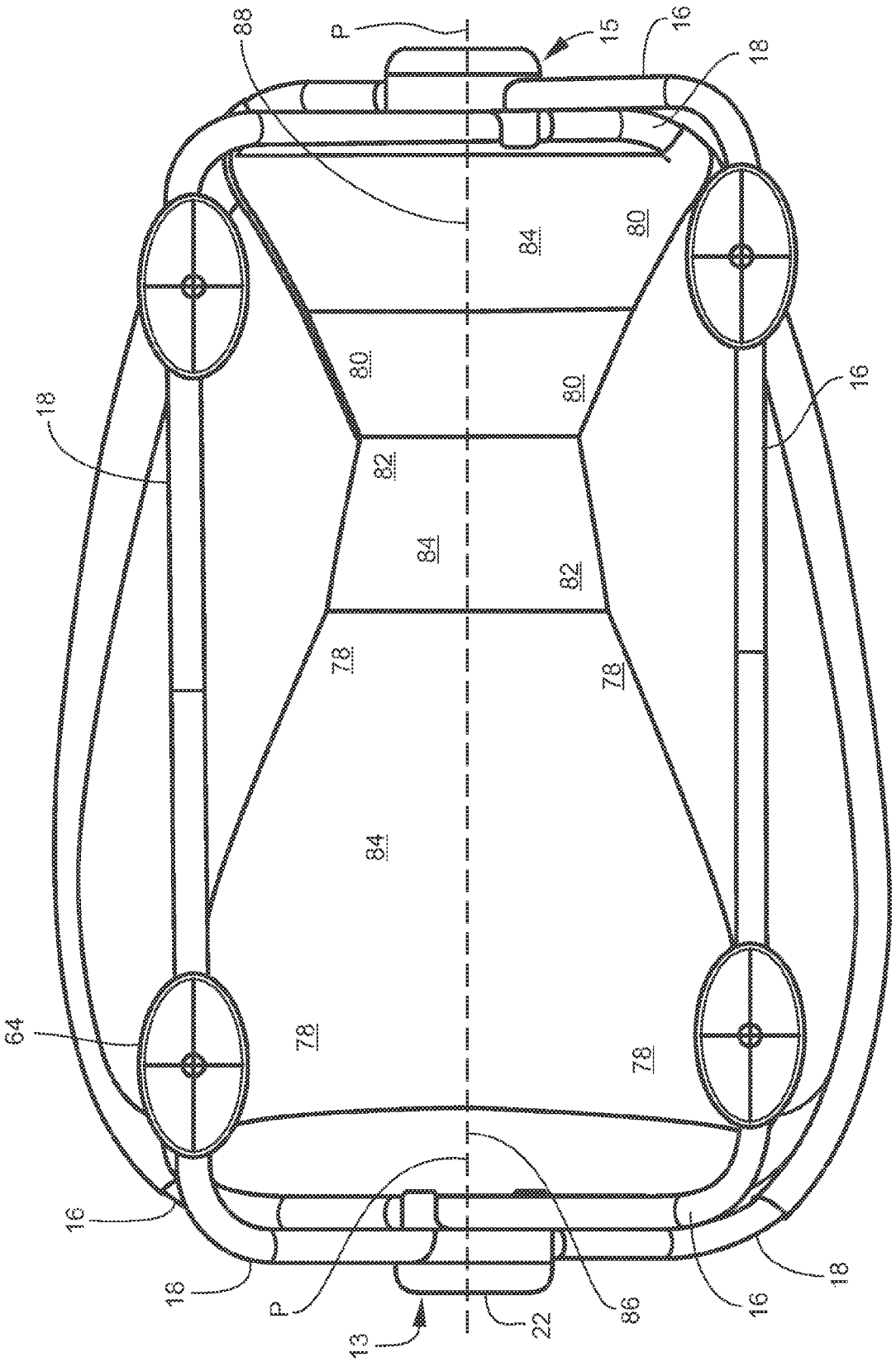
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Fig. 7

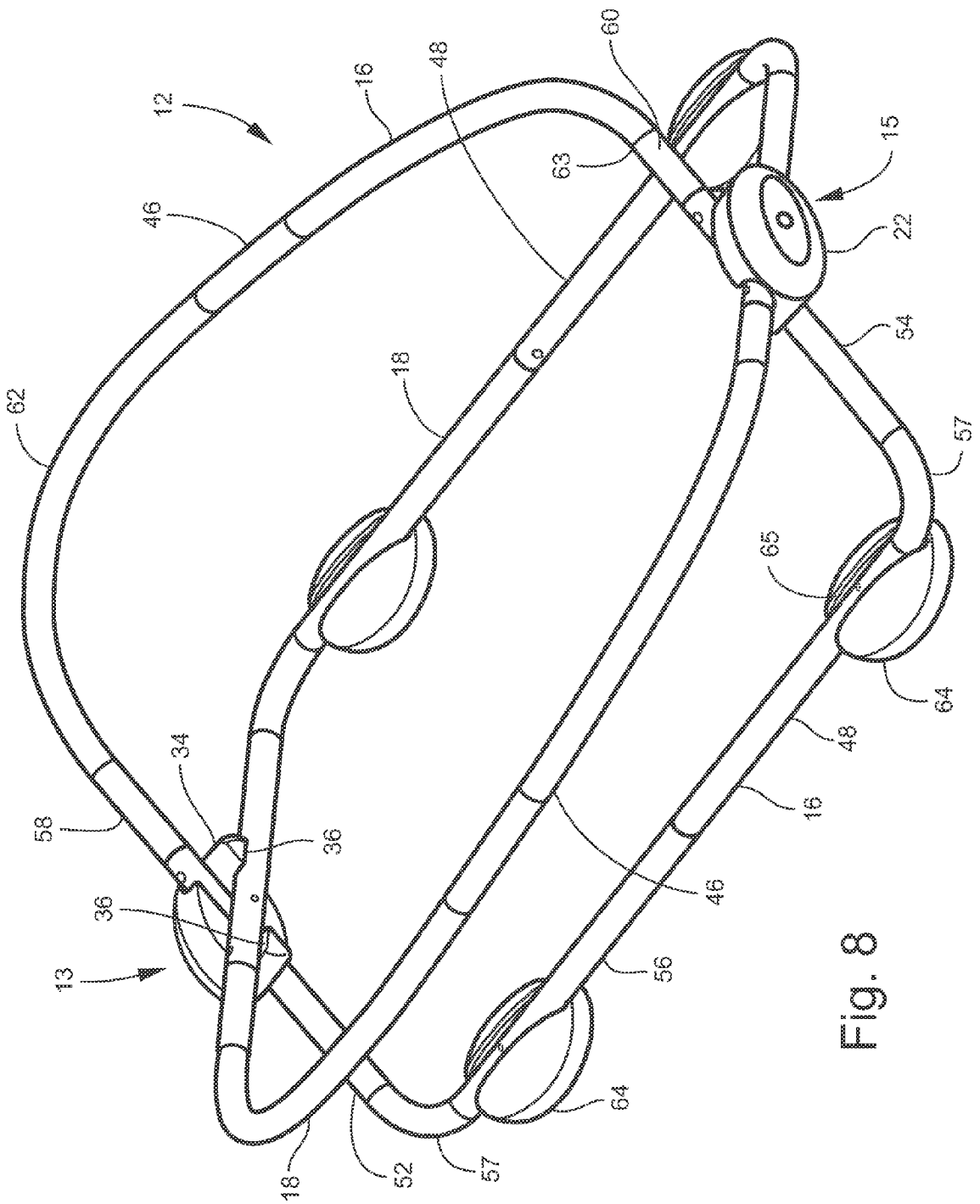
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Fig. 8

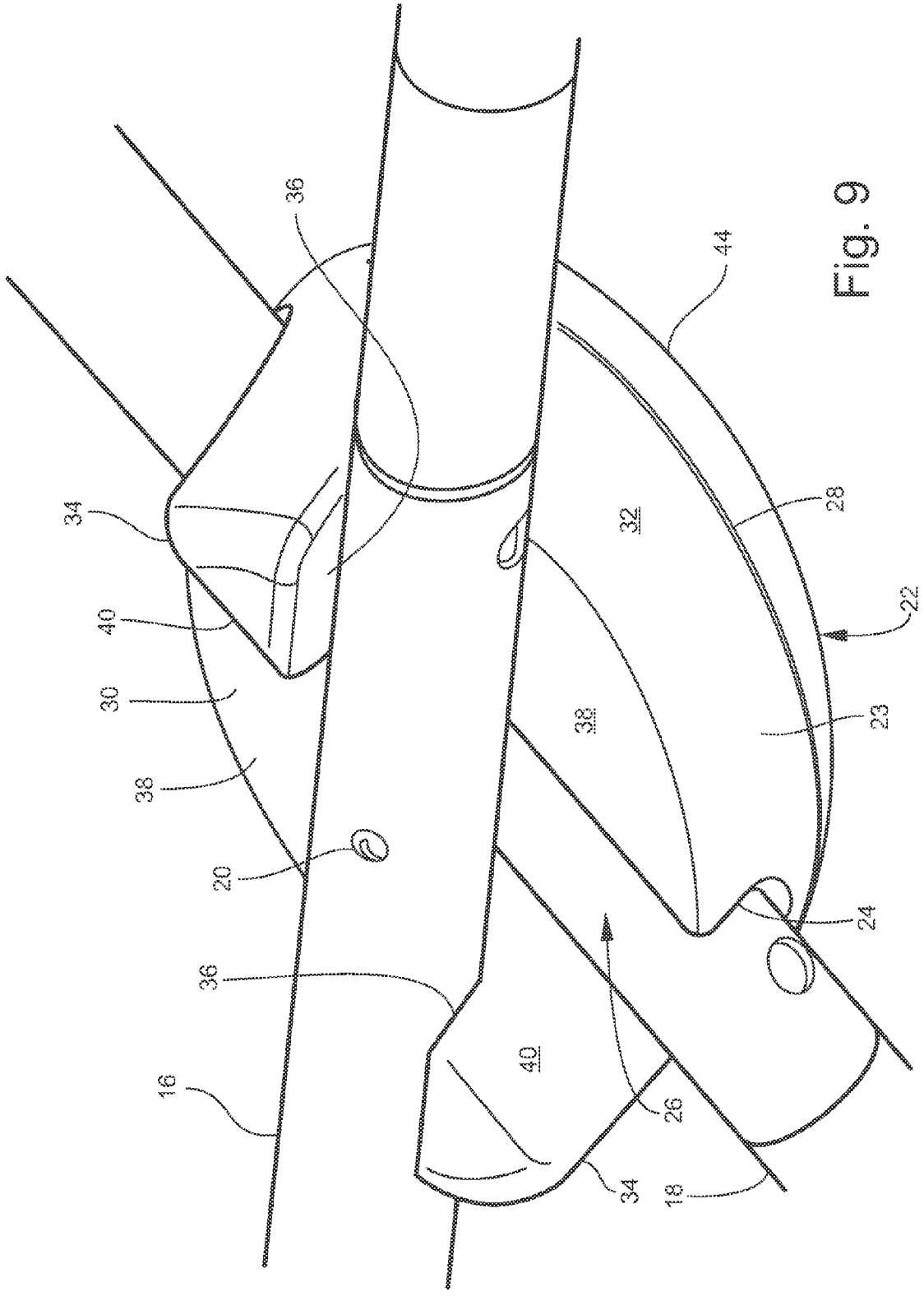

Fig. 9

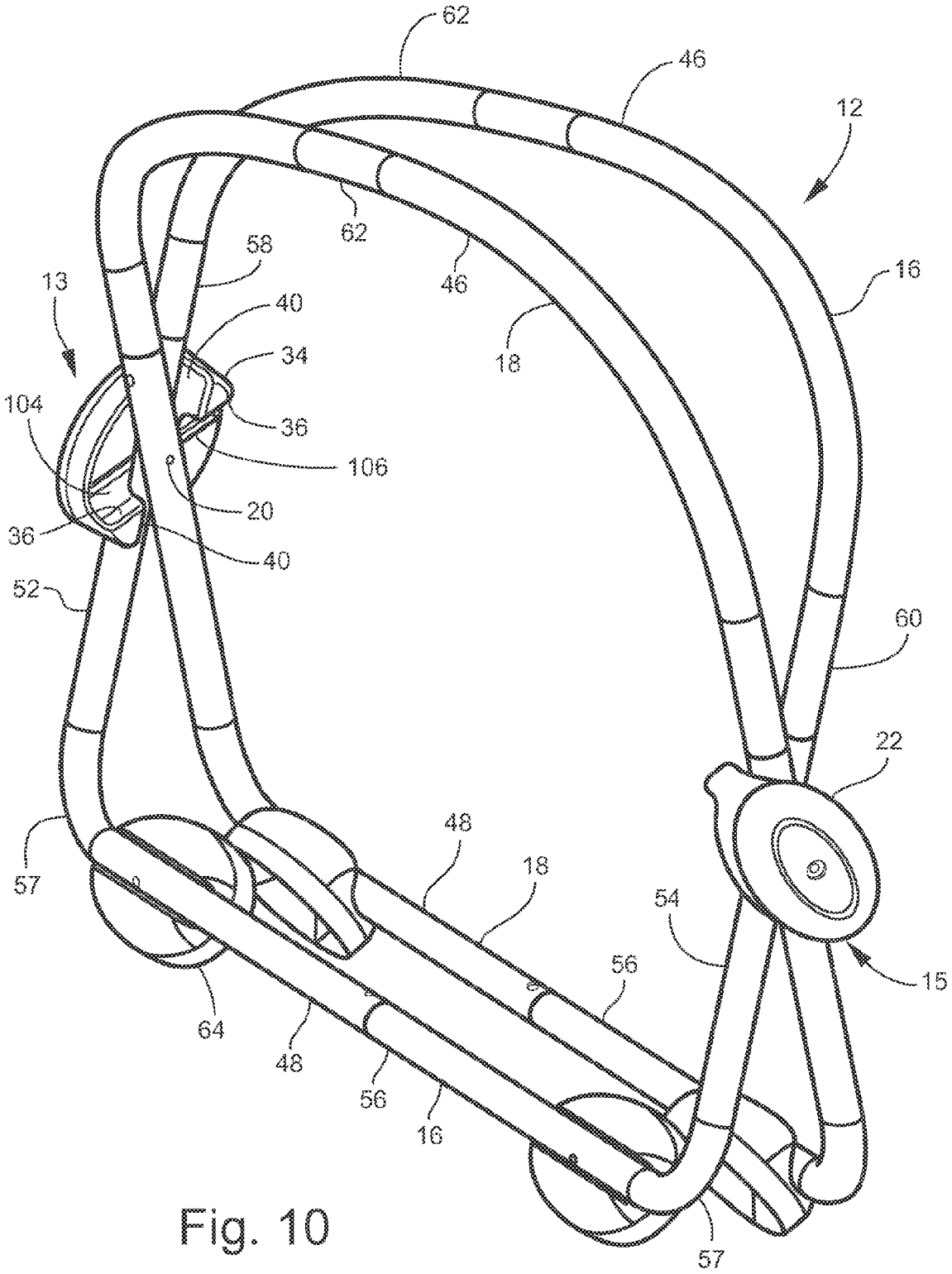
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Fig. 10

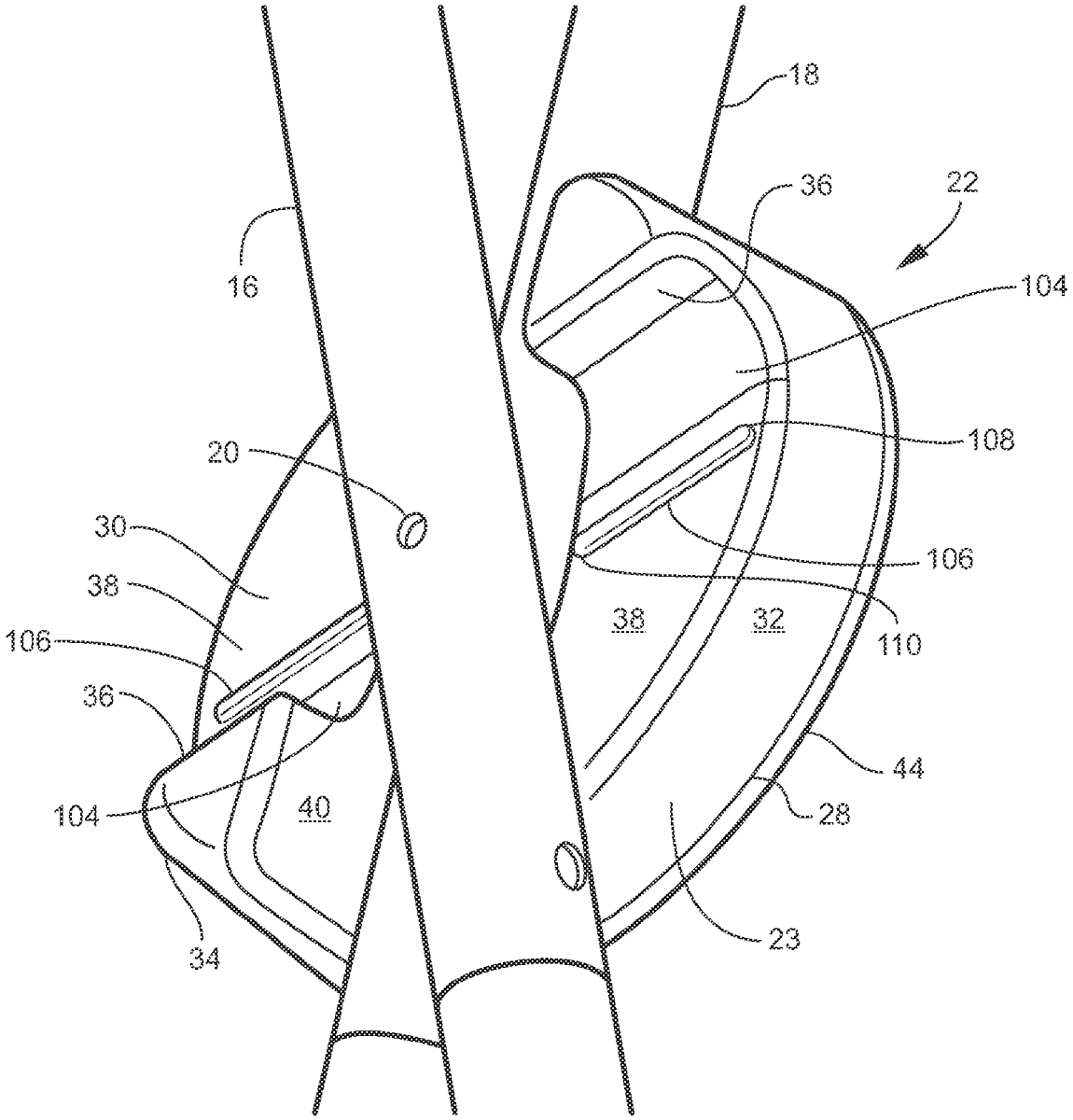

Fig. 11

FLEXIBLE FOLDING INFANT BATHER

This application claims the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) of U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/442,193 filed Feb. 12, 2011, which provisional application is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety into this application.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates generally to an infant bather, particularly to an infant bather that has a bath that is flexible, and specifically to a flexible infant bather that folds out for use and folds in to a compact configuration for storage.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The term "bath" may mean a container for water or other cleansing liquid. For example, the source Dictionary.com, unabridged (based on the Random House Dictionary, © Random House, Inc. 2011) defines "bath" as follows:

1. a washing or immersion of something, esp. the body, in water, steam, etc., as for cleansing or Medical treatment: I take a bath every day. Give the dog a bath.
2. a quantity of water or other liquid used for this purpose: running a bath.
3. a container for water or other cleansing liquid, as a bathtub.
4. a room equipped for bathing; bathroom: The house has two baths.
5. a building containing rooms or apartments with equipment for bathing; bathhouse.
6. Often, baths. One of the elaborate bathing establishments of the ancients: the baths of Caracalla.
7. Usually, baths. A town or resort visited for medical treatment by bathing or the like; spa.
8. a preparation, as an acid solution, in which something is immersed.
9. the container for such a preparation.
10. a device for controlling the temperature of something by the use of a surrounding medium, as sand, water, oil, etc.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A feature of the present invention is the provision in an infant bather, of a flexible water bath.

Another feature of the present invention is the provision in an infant bather, of a flexible water bath having a back section, a butt section, and a leg section, of the back section being greater in length than the leg section, and of the leg section being inclined at an angle greater than the back section such that the infant may be bathed in a comfortable position with his or her head out of the water.

Another feature of the present invention is the provision in an infant bather, of a frame for a water bath, of the frame having a scissors fold such that the frame is foldable out to an open configuration and foldable in to a closed or stored configuration.

Another feature of the present invention is the provision in an infant bather, of a frame for a water bath, of the frame having a pair of support members, of each of the support members having upper and lower sections, of the upper sections of the support members confronting each other when the infant bather is in a closed configuration, of the lower sections of the support members confronting each other when the infant bather is in the closed configuration, and of one upper section of one support member confronting the lower section of the other support member when the infant bather is in the open configuration.

Another feature of the present invention is the provision in an infant bather, of a frame for a water bath, of the frame having a pair of support members, of each of the support members being elongate and endless, and of each of the support members passing through the other of the support members in a looped fashion.

Another feature of the present invention is the provision in an infant bather, of a frame for a water bath, of the frame having a pair of support members, of a pivot housing for the support members, and of a seat on the pivot housing for seating of the support members when the frame is in an open configuration to minimize an unintended closing of the frame from the open configuration.

Another feature of the present invention is the provision in an infant bather, of a frame for a water bath, of the frame having a pair of support members, of a pivot housing for the support members, of a seat on the pivot housing for seating of the support members when the frame is in an open configuration to minimize an unintended closing of the frame from the open configuration, and of the seat including a ridge that forces the swinging support members to pop out of a plane just prior to engagement into the seat such that a user is notified by feel or by a clicking that the support members have been engaged into the seat.

An advantage of the present invention is a safe infant bather. One feature contributing to this advantage is the scissors fold arrangement to the frame. The flexible water bath opens as the scissors frame folds open, and the flexible water bath functions as one stop that prevents the frame from further opening. Another feature contributing to a safe infant bather is a first pivot housing on one end of the infant bather having a stop molded therein for stopping pivoting of a first support member, and a second pivot housing on the other end of the infant bather having a stop molded therein for stopping pivoting of a second support member. Another feature contributing to a safe infant bather is a seat into which the support members snap upon attaining the open configuration, which seat also minimizes an unintended closing of the frame from the open configuration. Another feature contributing to a safe infant bather is the layout of the flexible water bath that provides back, butt and leg sections shaped for the size of an infant to minimize movement of the infant as well as to provide comfort for the infant and to keep the head of the infant out of the water. Another feature contributing to a safe infant bather is the set of four feet engaged to the folding frame to provide stability to the infant bather.

Another advantage of the present invention is that the infant bather as a whole folds relatively flat to a closed configuration for storage to occupy a minimum amount of space.

Another advantage of the present invention is that the flexible water bath of the infant bather folds to a fully open position in which the whole of the infant's body, except the head, may be immersed in water.

Another advantage of the present invention is that the flexible water bath has a unique shape or configuration that is in the form of a seat so as to keep the infant in a seated position to keep the child more comfortable and less afraid of water and to free the hands of the caregiver, one of which in a conventional bath is usually tucked behind the head or neck of an infant to keep the infant's head out of water. The flexible water bath has a back section that is oblique to the lower horizontally running sections that engage the feet that make contact with the surface on which the infant bather rests.

Another advantage of the present invention is that the flexible water bath has a unique shape or configuration that minimizes the amount of water used for the bath. Since the flexible water bath has defined back, butt and leg sections, and since the flexible water bath narrows from the head (or shoulder) end to the foot end, the infant conforms to the infant bath and thus displaces a great amount of space, thereby requiring less water to surround the torso and legs of the infant.

Another advantage of the present invention is that the infant bather is inexpensive and easy to manufacture.

Another advantage of the present invention is that pinch points are minimized. One feature contributing to this advantage is that the frame does not fold completely scissors wise, but stops short of a complete scissors fold by the feet of the support members making contact with each other, thereby minimizing any scissors pinch.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** is a perspective view of the present flexible folding infant bather.

FIG. **2** is a right side view of the infant bather of FIG. **1**.

FIG. **3** is a left side view of the infant bather of FIG. **1**.

FIG. **4** is an end view of the head end of the infant bather of FIG. **1**.

FIG. **5** is an end view of the foot end of the infant bather of FIG. **1**.

FIG. **6** is a top view of the infant bather of FIG. **1**.

FIG. **7** is a bottom view of the infant bather of FIG. **1**.

FIG. **8** is a perspective view of the frame of the infant bather of FIG. **1**.

FIG. **9** is a perspective detail view of the pivot housing of the present infant bather, where infant bather is in the open configuration of FIG. **1**.

FIG. **10** is a perspective view of the infant bather of FIG. **1** in a collapsed or closed configuration.

FIG. **11** is a perspective detail view of the pivot housing of the present infant bather, where the infant bather is in the closed configuration of FIG. **10**.

DESCRIPTION

The present flexible folding infant bather is shown in FIG. **1** and is indicated by reference number **10**. Infant bather **10** generally includes a frame **12** and a flexible infant bath **14**. Infant bather **10** further includes a head end **13** and a foot end **15**.

Frame **12** includes an open configuration as shown in FIG. **1** and a closed configuration shown in FIG. **10**. Frame **12** is pivotably foldable between the open and closed configuration.

Frame **12** includes a first support member **16** and a second support member **18**. Each of the support members **16** and **18** is elongate and endless. Each of the support members **16** and **18** forms a loop.

Support member **16** is pivotally engaged to support member **18** through a pin **20** engaged in a pivot housing **22**. Pivot housing **22** includes a molded piece or hub or disk shaped block or main body **23** having a cylindrical channel **24** formed therein for receiving and engaging one of the support members **16**, **18**. Cylindrical channel **24** runs diametrically through the pivot block **23**. Cylindrical channel **24** includes an open face **26** such that, during manufacture, support member **16** or **18** may be dropped into or snapped into channel **24**.

Pivot block **23** includes a front end **28**, a rear end **30**, and a circular sidewall **32** between the front and rear ends **28**, **30**. Cylindrical channel **24** runs from a portion of sidewall **32** to another portion of sidewall **32** and is open on the rear end **38**.

Pivot block **22** includes a pair of stops **34** projecting longitudinally from the rear end **30** such that the stops **34** project transversely over one of the support members **16**, **18**. Stops **34** are positioned diametrically opposite each other. Each of the stops **34** includes a first stop face **36**. First stop face **36** includes a right angle portion disposed at a right angle relative to a rear face **38** of the rear end **30** of the pivot block **23**. The right angle portions of the first stop faces **36** are disposed parallel to each other. First stop faces **36** include cylindrical seat portions that engage the same straight support member **16** or **18** from opposite sides of such support member.

Each of the stops **34** includes a guide face **40**. Guide face **40** is disposed at a right angle relative to rear face **38** of the rear end **30** of pivot block **23**. Guide face **40** is disposed obliquely relative to the first stop face **36** on the same stop **34**. Guide faces **40** are disposed parallel to each other. The purpose of guide face **40** is to guide the placement of a support member, such as support member **18** in FIG. **9**, into channel **24**. Unless feet **64** are eliminated, guide face **40** is not a stop face, as shown in FIG. **10**.

In section, stop **34** is generally triangular. First stop face **36** makes generally up a first side of a triangle where such first side includes a right angle portion and a cylindrical seat portion, guide face **40** makes up a second side of the triangle, and a portion of circular sidewall **32** makes up a third side of the triangle.

Relative to one pivot housing **22**, pivot pin **20** extends from an inner side of support member **16**, through support member **16**, to and through support member **18**, and is then anchored in pivot block **23**. Relative to the other pivot housing **22**, pivot pin **20** extends from an inner side of support member **18**, through support member **18**, to and through support member **16**, and is then anchored in pivot block **23**.

In the open configuration shown in FIG. **1**, stop faces **36**, especially the cylindrical seat portions thereof, are employed to engage support member **16** (or support member **18** on the other pivot housing **22**). In the open configuration, support members **16**, **18** cross each other at a relatively great angle.

In the closed configuration shown in FIG. **10**, the support members **16**, **18** stop pivoting short of guide faces **40** (support member **16** stops short of guide faces **40** on one pivot housing **22** and support member **18** stops short of the guide faces **40** on the other pivot housing **22**). In the closed configuration, support members **16**, **18** cross each other at a relatively small angle at the pivot housings **22**, whereas, as indicated above, in the open configuration support members **16**, **18** cross each other at a relatively great angles at the pivot housings **22**. In the closed configuration, feet **64** on support member **16** make contact with feet **64** on the other support member **18** and this contact stops a pivoting of the lower sections **48** toward each other.

When support member **16** (or support member **18**) is pivoted relative to the pivot housing **22**, a face of support member **16** may confront and make contact with rear face **38** of rear end **30** of pivot block **23**. A washer may be engaged on pivot pin **20** between support members **16** and **18**.

Stops **34** are integral with pivot block **23**. A cap **44** is disposed on the front end **28** of pivot block **23** to visually hide the mountains and valleys on the molded pivot block **23**. Cap **44** further hides and minimizes tampering of the outer end of pivot pin **20**.

Each of the support members **16**, **18** is preferably a tube formed of a metal or plastic. Metal is preferred. If members **16**, **18** are formed of a metal, a nonrust metal such as alumi-

num or stainless steel is preferred. Each of the support members **16**, **18** may be a rod that is solid through the cross-section of the rod.

As shown in FIG. **8**, each of the support members **16**, **18** includes an upper section **46** and a lower section **48**. By definition, the location at which the upper section **46** meets the lower section **48** is at the pivot pin **20**. In the open configuration shown in FIG. **8**, the upper section **46** of one support member **16** or **18** confronts the lower section **48** of another support member **16** or **18**. In the closed configuration shown in FIG. **10**, the upper sections **46** of the support members **16**, **18** confront each other and the lower sections **48** of the support members **16**, **18** confront each other.

Lower section **48** is U-shaped and includes generally three portions. First and second portions **52**, **54** are straight, run parallel to each other and run downwardly from the pivot housings **22**. Third portion or lower horizontally running section **56** is straight and runs between the first and second portions **52**, **54**. First portions **52**, **54** are joined to third portion **56** by a rounded corner junction **57**. Lower section **48** is a symmetrically shaped U-shaped section of a support member.

Upper section **46** is U-shaped and includes generally three portions. First and second portions **58**, **60** are straight, run parallel to each other, and run upwardly from the pivot housings **22**. Third portion **62** is generally J-shaped or C-shaped. Upper section **46** is a nonsymmetrically shaped U-shaped section of a support member. Upper section **46** is generally the shape of an ear.

Upper sections **46** in combination (upper section **46** of support member **16** and upper section **46** of support member **18**) form a shape that is relatively flat at the foot end **15** (defined by portions **54** and **60**), then tapers outwardly from the foot end **15** to a point about three-fourths of the way to the head end **13** (defined by portions **52**, **58**), whereupon at the three-fourths location the shape formed by the upper sections **46** in combination begins to taper inwardly toward the head end **13** (defined by portions **52**, **58**). The point that is about three-fourths of the distance from the foot end **15** to the head end **13** is a point on an axis defined by pivot pins **20**, which pivot pins **20** are coaxial. The shape defined by the upper sections **46** in combination is relatively flat at the head end **13**.

In other words, each of the upper sections **46** tapers outwardly relative to the axis defined by the pivot pins **20** prior to tapering back toward the axis defined by the pivot pins **20**. Such tapering begins at substantially a junction **63** (shown in FIG. **8**) between portion **60** and the third portion **62** of respective support member **16** or **18**. Such tapering continues on third portion **62** outwardly past points that are one-fourth, one-third, one-half, and two-thirds of the way from the foot end **15** to the head end **13**. Such tapering continues outwardly on third portion **62** to a point that is about three-fourths of the way from the foot end **15** to the head end **13**, whereupon third portion **62** begins to taper toward the pivot pin axis and toward the respective portion **58**. The shape formed by the upper sections **46** in combination is generally an apple or butterfly shape.

In yet other words, at a point that is three-fourths of the way from the foot end **15** to the head end **13**, a spacing between sections **46** is greater than at a point that is two-thirds of the way from the foot end **15** to the head end **13**. Also, at a point that is two-thirds of the way from the foot end **15** to the head end **13**, a spacing between sections **46** is greater than at a point that is one-half of the way from the foot end **15** to the head end **13**. Also, at a point that is one-half of the way from the foot end **15** to the head end **13**, a spacing between sections **46** is greater than at a point that is one-third of the way from the foot end **15** to the head end **13**. Also, at a point that is one-third of the way from the foot end **15** to the head end **13**, a spacing between sections **46** is greater than at a point that is one-fourth of the way from the foot end **15** to the head end **13**. These relationships are true for each of the open and closed configurations of the frame **12**.

Support member **16** is elongate and endless. Support member **18** is elongate and endless. In the pivot housing **22** at the head end **13**, support member **16** is engaged in the channel **24** and support member **18** is engaged by the stops **34** and seats **104**. In the pivot housing **22** at the foot end **15**, support member **16** is engaged by the stops **34** and seats **104** and support member **18** is engaged by the channel **24**. In other words, support member **16** passes through a loop formed by support member **18**. Also, support member **18** passes through a loop formed by support member **16**.

In one of the pivot housings **22**, one support member **16** or **18** is fixed (in channel **24**) and nonrotatable in such pivot housing **22** and the other support member **16** or **18** is pivotable relative to such pivot housing **22** while still being engaged to such pivot housing **22**. In the other of the pivot housings **22**, the other of the support members **16**, **18** is fixed (in channel **24**) and nonrotatable in such pivot housing **22** and the other of the support members **16**, **18** is pivotable relative to such pivot housing **22** while still being engaged to such pivot housing **22**.

Frame **12** is mounted on a set of four feet **64**. Each foot **64** includes a channel **65** formed therein and running longitudinally. Straight third portion **56** of lower section **48** is set in the channel **65** and is connected with a pin connector, such as a rivet, to the foot **64**. Foot **64** is elliptical in shape. An endless sidewall of foot **64** is generally formed in the shape of an ellipse. The undersurface of foot **64** can be roughened so as to be nonslip. Foot **64** can be formed of an elastomer or rubber or rubber like material so as to minimize slippage on a number of surfaces such as a ceramic (for instance, porcelain), wood, plastic, or metal.

Flexible infant bath **14** is engaged between the upper sections **46** of the support members **16**, **18**. Flexible infant bath **14** is a receptacle, container, bowl, bathtub, or basin that holds water, that seats or cradles an infant, and that is flexible.

Flexible infant bath **14** can be or include a leakproof flexible material that is leakproof as to water.

Flexible infant bath **14** can be or include a material that is resistant to, and can be easily cleaned of, soap, shampoo and other cleansing fluids and solid.

Flexible infant bath **14** can be or include a material that is resistant to, and can be easily cleaned of, bodily waste such as urine and feces.

Flexible infant bath **14** can be or include a flexible plastic material such as a polyamide. Polyamides include nylons.

Flexible infant bath **14** can be or include a natural or synthetic fabric (such as nylon) that is laminated to or coated with a leakproofing or waterproofing material such as rubber, a plastic, a polymer, polyvinyl chloride, polyurethane, a silicone elastomer, a fluoropolymer, or a wax.

Flexible infant bath **14** can be or include a polyurethane coated nylon.

Flexible infant bath **14** can be or include a ripstop nylon. Ripstop nylon is a light-weight nylon fabric with inter-woven ripstop reinforcement threads in a crosshatch pattern. Ripstop nylon can be a material that is woven with coarse, strong warp and filling yarns spaced at intervals so that tears will not spread. Ripstop nylon can be waterproof, water resistant, and fire resistant, and can have zero porosity (will not allow air or water through). Ripstop nylon can be soft and silk like.

Flexible infant bath **14** can be or include a material that has zero porosity to water and/or air, with such materials includ-

ing rubber, a plastic, a polymer, polyvinyl chloride, a polyurethane, a silicone elastomer, a fluoropolymer, a polyamide, a nylon, a ripstop nylon, a polyester, a natural textile treated with a resin, and a synthetic textile treated with a resin.

Flexible infant bath **14** can be or include a skin friendly soft and flexible waterproof material such as a polyamide, a ripstop nylon, a natural textile coated with a resin, or a synthetic textile material.

Flexible infant bath **14** can be or include a laminate having a skin friendly material on the inner side that makes contact with the skin of an infant. The skin friendly material may be ripstop nylon that is soft and silk like or a natural or synthetic fabric or textile.

Flexible infant bath **14** can be or include a laminate having a durable material on the outer or underside that does not make contact with the skin of an infant when the infant is in the bath **14**. The durable material may be or include polyurethane, polyester, nylon, a vulcanized rubber, neoprene, vinyl chloride, or synthetic leather.

Flexible infant bath **14** can be or include a vulcanized rubber or laminated layers of nylon and butyl rubber.

Flexible infant bath **14** can be or include a material that does not stretch under the weight of an infant or stretches to a minimum degree.

Flexible infant bath **14** can be or include a synthetic rubber such as neoprene or a foamed neoprene.

Flexible infant bath **14** can be or include a hybrid of neoprene and foam rubber.

Flexible infant bath **14** can be or include a rubberized stockinette or a dipped pure latex material or an all-rubber material or a pure natural rubber material.

Flexible infant bath **14** can be or include an impervious stockinette. An impervious stockinette has an inner layer made of polyester and an outer layer made of an impervious rubber material.

Flexible infant bath **14** can be or include an uncoated ripstop nylon, or an impregnated ripstop nylon such as a silicone impregnated ripstop nylon, or a polyurethane or urethane coated nylon such as a polyurethane coated ripstop nylon, or a silicone coated nylon such as a silicone coated ripstop nylon.

Flexible infant bath **14** may be or include a polyester or a vinyl laminated polyester or a vinyl coated polyester or a neoprene coated nylon, or a vinyl coated yarn or vinyl coated natural fabric.

Flexible infant bath **14** can be a waterproof, moisture-vapor permeable, unitary (non-laminated and single thickness) sheet material.

Flexible infant bath **14** can be a laminate.

Flexible infant bath **14** can be or include a material that is resistant to dirt, mildew, oil and salt and will not tear, stretch, crack, rot or mildew. One such material is a vinyl coated polyester.

Flexible infant bath **14** can be or include cotton that is treated with a polymer or resin to make it substantially waterproof.

Flexible infant bath **14** can be or include a waterproof/breathable fabric or material. A waterproof/breathable fabric or material is a fabric or material that resists liquid water passing through, but allows water vapor to pass through. Water resistance or the degree to which a fabric or material is water proof can be measured by the amount of water, in mm, which can be suspended above the fabric or material before water seeps through. Breathability can be measured by the rate at which water vapor passes through, in grams of water vapor per square meter of fabric or material per 24 hour period (g/m2/d). For the purposes herein, "waterproof/breathable" requires the fabric or material to withstand over 1,000 millimeters of water (9.8 kPa) pressure without leaking.

Flexible infant bath **14** can be waterproofed by a spray.

Flexible infant bath **14** can be a waterproof fabric or material that includes insulation on the upper side of the bath **14** or on the underside of the bath **14**.

Flexible infant bath **14** can be a) a laminate or b) a non-laminate structure formed of a single piece.

Flexible infant bath **14** can be or include a flexible textile cloth or a knit fabric. The textile cloth or knit fabric may be treated with a waterproof resin.

Flexible infant bath **14** can be or include a vinyl chloride, polyurethane, nylon, and/or polyethylene.

Flexible infant bath **14** can be or include a vinyl chloride, polyurethane, nylon, or polyethylene where the vinyl chloride, polyurethane, nylon, or polyethylene is treated with a waterproof resin.

Flexible infant bath **14** can be or include a material made of one or more of a flexible textile cloth, a knit fabric, cotton, a vinyl chloride, polyurethane, nylon, polyethylene, polyester, a waterproof resin, a material that provides both a waterproof property and a moisture permeable property, a leather, and a synthetic leather.

Flexible infant bath **14** includes a pair of sleeves **66** that engage one respective upper section **46**. More particularly, sleeve **66** may engage at least some or all of the third J-shaped portion **62** of the upper section **46**. Sleeve **66** may also engage some of first and second portions **58**, **60**. Preferably, at least a portion of first and second portions **58**, **60** remains unengaged or free of the sleeves **66**.

From the top view shown in FIG. **6**, it can be appreciated that a perimeter **67** of the infant bath **14** generally follows the shape of the combination of the upper sections **46**. In other words, the perimeter of the infant bath **14** includes a pair of curved edges **68**. Curved edge **68** is on and runs the length of sleeve **66**. Curved edge **68** is an engaged curved edge. The perimeter **67** further includes a pair of unengaged or free edges **70**, **72**. Unengaged edge **70** runs adjacent to head end **13** and confronts portions **58** of the upper sections **46**. Unengaged edge **72** runs adjacent to foot end **15** and confronts portions **60** of the upper sections **46**. Edges **70**, **72** run parallel to each other.

Infant bath **14** includes a right half-section **74** and a left half-section **76**. A vertical longitudinal plane P splits or defines the right and left half-sections **74**, **76** and runs through the head and foot ends **13**, **15**. In the open configuration of FIG. **1**, right half-section **74** is spaced apart from left half-section **76**. In the closed configuration of FIG. **10** where the flexible infant bath **14** is not shown, the right half-section **74** would confront the left half-section **76**.

Infant bath **14** further includes a back section **78** adjacent the head end **13** of the infant bather **10**, a leg section **80** adjacent the foot end **15** of the infant bather **10**, and a butt section **82** between the back and leg sections **78**, **80** of the flexible water bath **14**.

Infant bath **14** further includes an underside **84**. The underside **84** on the vertical longitudinal plane P has a first length along the back section **78** and a second length along the leg section **80**. The first length along the back section **78** is greater than the second length along the leg section **80**. The underside **84** on the vertical longitudinal plane P along the leg section **80** includes an inclination. The underside on the vertical longitudinal plane P along said back section **78** includes an inclination. The inclination along the leg section **80** is greater than the inclination along the back section **78**. The inclination along the back section **78** grows greater from the butt section **82** to the head end **13** such that the back section **78** is curved

along line **86**. The inclination along the leg section **80** grows greater from the butt section **82** to the foot end **15** such that the leg section **80** is curved along line **88**.

In other words, slopes on the leg section **80** are greater than slopes on the back section **78** where such slopes of the back and leg sections **78**, **80** are taken at identical heights, where the underside **84** on the vertical longitudinal plane P has a first length along the back section **78** and a second length along the leg section **80**, and where the first length along the back section **78** is greater than the second length along the leg section **80**.

The slope or gradient of a straight or curved line describes its steepness, incline, or grade. A higher slope value indicates a steeper incline. In the case of a curved line specifically, the slope is a value taken at a point tangential to the curved line. The underside **84** on the vertical longitudinal plane P is curved from the butt section **82** to the head end **13** along a curved line **86**. The underside **84** on the vertical longitudinal plane P is curved from the butt section **82** to the head end **13** along a curved line **88**. Since lines **86** and **88** are curved, a slope is a value taken at a point. A point on curved line **88** has a greater slope than a point on curved line **86** where the points are at identical heights or at identical distances from an axis of straight third portion **56**.

The slope of curved line **86** increases from the butt section **82** to the head end **13**. The slope of curved line **88** increases from the butt section **82** to foot end **15**. The rate of increase of the slope of curved line **88** from butt section **82** to foot end **15** is greater than the rate of increase of the slope of curved line **86** from butt section **82** to head end **13**.

The back section **78** of the flexible water bath **14** is oblique to the lower horizontally running sections **56** that engage the feet **64** that make contact with a surface on which the infant bather **10** rests. When a straight line is drawn from the end of the butt section **82** to the free edge **70**, such straight line is at a substantial angle, such as between about 20 and 60 degrees, relative to the horizontal and to the lower horizontally running sections **56**.

From sleeves **66** or curved edges **68**, the flexible infant bath **14** tapers inwardly and downwardly until where the right half-section **74** meets the left half-section **76** at the vertical longitudinal plane P. From unengaged edge **70** running near head end **13**, the flexible infant bath **14** tapers inwardly and downwardly to the butt section **82**. From unengaged edge **72**, the flexible infant bath **14** tapers inwardly and downwardly to the butt section **82**.

Bath **14** includes a head rest or pillow **90**. Head rest **90** is formed inside of the bath **14** on the back section **78** and extends to and between right and left portions **92**, **94** of the bath **14**. Head rest **90** protrudes upwardly from the back section **78**.

Head rest **90** includes a neck portion **96** interconnecting two head support portions **98**. Neck portion **96** is of a height (distance from back section **78**) less than the height of the head support portions **98**. Neck portion **96** is of a thickness (distance along the direction from the butt section **82** to the head end **13**) less than the thickness of head support portion **98**. Head rest **90** may be formed of the same material or of a different material than the infant bath **14**.

Head rest **90** is generally the shape of a bone. Head rest **90** includes a U-shaped upper surface **100** running from the upper side of one head support portion **98**, over the upper side of the neck portion **96**, and onto the upper side of the other head support portion **98**. Head rest **90** includes, opposite of the U-shaped upper surface **100**, an inverted U-shaped lower surface **102** having a relatively shallow U-shaped curve in relation to U-shaped curved surface **100**. Surface **102** runs from the underside of one head support portion **98**, over the underside of the neck portion **96**, and onto the underside of the other head support portion **98**.

Head rest **90** cradles an infant's head, whose neck muscles are often weak or undeveloped such that the head of the infant will tend to drop to the front or to the side.

Head rest **90** can be an inflatable pillow. Head rest **90** can be filled with a resilient material such as foam.

FIG. **11** shows a detail view of the pivot housing **22** where the infant bather **10** is in the closed configuration of FIG. **10**. FIG. **11** shows that main body **23** of the pivot housing **22** includes a pair of seats **104** into which support member **16** snaps (or into which support member **18** snaps in the opposite pivot housing **22**) when frame **12** is opened to the open configuration of FIG. **1** and out of which support member **16** snaps (or out of which support member **18** snaps in the opposite pivot housing **22**) when the frame **12** is closing out of the open configuration to the closed configuration of FIG. **10**. Seat **104** is defined by face **36** on one side and by a ridge **106** on the other side and by a portion of rear face **38** running between face **36** and ridge **106**. Ridge **106** is a protrusion from rear face **38** and includes an outer end **108** and an inner end **110**. Ridge **106** runs straight between the ends **108**, **110**. Outer end **108** confronts sidewall **32**. Inner end **110** confronts channel **24**. Seat **104** runs radially from channel **24** to sidewall **32**. Seats **104** are diametrically opposite of each other on one hub **23**. Seat **104** is curved in the circumferential direction of hub **23** or cylindrical at the junction between the flat or right angle portion of face **36** and inner face **38** so as to mate with cylindrical support member **16** (or cylindrical support member **18** on the opposite pivot housing **22**). When support member **16** (or **18**) is rotated from the closed configuration of FIG. **10** toward the open configuration of FIG. **1**, support member **16** (or **18**) is rotating (or swinging or pivoting) in a first plane. When support member **16** (or **18**) makes contact with ridge **106**, support member **16** momentarily pops out of the first plane and moves inwardly toward the opposite pivot housing **22**. When support member **16** (or **18**) is further rotated over the ridge **106**, support member **16** (or **18**) pops back into the first plane and pops into seat **104**. Seat **104** and its cooperating ridge **106** work as a stop to minimize unintended closing of the frame **12** from the open configuration of FIG. **1** to the closed configuration of FIG. **10**, whereas face **36** works as a stop in the other direction of rotation to minimize unintended further opening of the frame **12** from the open configuration of FIG. **1**. It should be noted that each of the main bodies **23** of pivot housing **22** includes a pair of seats **104** such that each of the main bodies **23** of pivot housing **22** includes a pair of ridges **106**. Ridge **106** runs parallel to its respective cooperating face **36**, and ridge **106** and face **36** run parallel to support member **16** (or **18**) when the support member **16** (or **18**) is in seat **104**.

In operation, starting from the closed configuration shown in FIG. **10**, the upper sections **46** are pulled apart from each other until members **16**, **18** pop over ridges **106** and into seats **104** such that the stops **34** prevent the support members **16**, **18** from rotating further. More specifically, the ridges **106**, seats **104**, and stops **34** of one pivot housing **22** catch the upper section **46** and lower section **48** of one support member **16** or **18** and the ridges **106**, seats **104** and stops **34** of the other pivot housing **22** catch the upper section **46** and lower section **48** of the other support member **16**, **18**. Still more specifically, one seat **104** catches the upper section **46** and the other seat **104** of the same pivot housing **22** catches the lower section **48**. When the seats **104** are engaged, the infant bather **10** is in the open position shown in FIG. **1**. Seat **104** can be defined as including stop face **36** and ridge **106**.

As the seats **104** are engaged by the support members **16**, **18**, the flexible infant bath **14** also may act as a stop to prevent further expansion of the frame **12**. That is, the flexible infant bath **14** may be manufactured such that the unengaged edges **70**, **72** draw tightly against the upper sections **46** at about the time the seats **104** or the stops **34** are engaged.

In the open configuration as shown in FIG. **1**, the infant bather **10** is sufficiently light, is sufficiently narrow, and has a sufficiently small height to be placed under a faucet in a sink or bathtub to be filled with water. Then the infant bather **10** may be placed on a level surface. As an alternative to being placed under a faucet, infant bather **10** may first be placed on a surface, such as a level surface, and then water is poured into the infant bather. Whether the infant bath **14** is empty, is in the process of being filled with water, is full of water, or is cradling an infant, feet **64** minimize a slipping of the infant bather **10**.

An infant may be placed into the infant bath **14** when the bath **14** is empty of water, when the infant bath **14** is partially full, or when the infant bath **14** is generally full or contains the amount of water desired by the caretaker. For example, for a sponge bath, an infant may be placed into a dry infant bath **14**, whereupon during the sponge bath, the leakproof infant bath **14** holds water running off the infant.

When an infant is in the infant bath **14**, the back of the infant rests on the back section **78**, the butt of the infant rests on the butt section **82**, and the legs of the infant rest on the leg section **80**. The head of the infant is cradled on and in the head rest **90**. The head of the infant may turn to the right or left side, whereupon the head is supported by one of the head support portions **98**.

When an infant is in the infant bath **14**, the weight of the infant and the weight of the water provide a downward force that may tend to push the upper sections **46** apart from each other. Working against such a force are the stops **34**, the unengaged edges **70**, **72** of the bath **14**, and the nonslip feet **64**.

When the caregiver has completed bathing the infant, the infant may be lifted from the bath **14**. Then the infant may be handed to another caregiver or carried to a safe place such as a crib or baby seat. Then the bath **14** may be carried to a bathtub or sink and lifted at an angle to pour water from the bath **14** to the bathtub or sink. Then the bath **14** may be cleaned such as with a cleaning liquid to wash dirt, soap, and bodily wastes off the inside (and outside) of the bath **14**. Then, by drawing the upper sections **46** of the support members **16**, **18** toward each other, the frame **12** may be collapsed into the closed configuration shown in FIG. **10**.

The frame **12** includes a first pivot housing **22** adjacent the head end **13** of the infant bather **10** and a second pivot housing **22** adjacent the foot end **15** of the infant bather **10**. The pivot housings **22** engage the first and second support members **16**, **18**. At one of the pivot housings **22** the first support member **16** is disposed inwardly of the second support member **18**, and wherein at the other of the pivot housings **22** the second support member **18** is disposed inwardly of the first support member **16**.

The inclination along the back section **78** continually increases from the butt section **82** to the head end **13**. The inclination along the leg section **80** continually increases from the butt section **82** to the foot end **15**.

The flexible water bath **14** includes the perimeter **67** and first and second bath ends. The upper sections **46** of the first and second support members **16**, **18** engage respective side portions of the perimeter **67** to open and close the flexible water bath **14**. The upper sections **46** of the first and second support members **16**, **18** are spaced apart from each other at a greater distance at the first bath end than at the second bath end such that the respective side portions of the perimeter **67** of the flexible water bath **14** are spaced apart from each other at a greater distance at the first bath end than at the second bath end. The flexible water bath **14** includes a pair of unengaged free edges **70**, **72**. One of the unengaged free edges **70**, **72** is adjacent to the head end **13** of the infant bather **10** and runs from one respective side portion of the perimeter **67** to the other respective side portion of the perimeter **67**, and the other of the unengaged free edges **70**, **72** is adjacent to the foot end **15** of the infant bather **10** and runs from one respective side portion of the perimeter **67** to the other respective side portion of the perimeter **67**.

Each of the lower sections **48** includes a horizontally running portion **56** having an undersurface. The flexible water bath **14** includes an underside **84** having a bottom-most section. The bottom-most section of the underside **84** of the flexible water bath **14** is disposed above the undersurfaces of the horizontally running portions **56** of the lower sections **48** of the first and second support members **16**, **18**. The bottom-most section of the underside **84** of the flexible water bath **14** is disposed below each of the first and second pivot housings **22**.

An inclination of the leg section **80** is defined by an inclination of a straight line from a bottom-most section of the underside **84** to a top-most section of the underside of the leg section **80**. An inclination of the back section **78** is defined by an inclination of a straight line from the bottom-most section of the underside **84** to a top-most section of the underside **84** of the back section **78**. An inclination along the underside **84** of the back section **78** continually increases from the butt section **82** to the head end **13**. An inclination along the underside **84** of the leg section **80** continually increases from the butt section **82** to the foot end **15**.

Thus since the invention disclosed herein may be embodied in other specific forms without departing from the spirit or general characteristics thereof, some of which forms have been indicated, the embodiments described herein are to be considered in all respects illustrative and not restrictive. The scope of the invention is to be indicated by the appended claims, rather than by the foregoing description, and all changes which come within the meaning and range of equivalents of the claims are intended to be embraced therein.

What is claimed is:

1. An infant bather having a head end and a foot end, comprising:

a) a frame having an open configuration and a closed configuration, the frame having a first support member and a second support member, the first support member being pivotally engaged to the second support member such that the first and second support members pivot relative to each other to open the frame from the closed configuration and to close the frame from the open configuration;

b) a flexible water bath engaged to the frame, the flexible water bath being watertight, the flexible water bath folding closed when the frame is closed from the open configuration to the closed configuration, the flexible water bath folding open when the frame is opened from the closed configuration to the open configuration;

c) wherein each of the first and second support members comprise first and second endless elongate support members, respectively, such that each of the first and second support members defines respective first and second endless loops, wherein the first endless support member passes through the second endless loop, and

wherein the second endless support member passes through the first endless loop;

d) wherein the frame comprises a first pivot housing adjacent the head end of the infant bather and a second pivot housing adjacent the foot end of the infant bather, wherein said pivot housings engage the first and second support members, wherein at one of the pivot housings the first support member is disposed inwardly of the second support member, and wherein at the other of the pivot housings the second support member is disposed inwardly of the first support member;

e) wherein each of the first and second support members comprises upper and lower sections, wherein in the open configuration the upper section of the first support member confronts the lower section of the second support member and the lower section of the first support member confronts the upper section of the second support member, and wherein in the closed configuration the upper sections of the first and second support members confront each other and the lower sections of the first and second support members confront each other;

f) said first pivot housing comprising a first pivot block;

g) said second pivot housing comprising a second pivot block;

h) said first pivot block having a first channel running diametrically therethrough, said first channel receiving said first support member;

i) said second pivot block having a second channel running diametrically therethrough, said second channel receiving said second support member;

j) said first pivot block having a pair of first stops, each of the first stops projecting transversely of the second support member to stop the second support member from rotating in one direction, said first stops being positioned diametrically opposite each other; and

k) said second pivot block having a pair of second stops, each of the second stops projecting transversely of the first support member to stop the first support member from rotating in one direction, said second stops being positioned diametrically opposite each other.

2. The infant bather of claim **1**, wherein the flexible water bath comprises one or more of a polyamide, a nylon, and a ripstop nylon.

3. The infant bather of claim **1**, wherein:

a) the flexible water bath includes a perimeter and first and second bath ends, wherein the upper sections of the first and second support members engage respective side portions of said perimeter to open and close the flexible water bath, and wherein the upper sections of the first and second support members are spaced apart from each other at a greater distance at the first bath end than at the second bath end such that said respective side portions of said perimeter of said flexible water bath are spaced apart from each other at a greater distance at the first bath end than at the second bath end; and

b) wherein the flexible water bath includes a pair of unengaged free edges, one of the unengaged free edges being adjacent to the head end of the infant bather and running from one respective side portion of said perimeter to the other respective side portion of said perimeter, and the other of the unengaged free edges being adjacent to the foot end of the infant bather and running from one respective side portion of said perimeter to the other respective side portion of said perimeter.

4. The infant bather of claim **1**, wherein one pivot housing nonrotatably engages the first support member and pivotally engages the second support member, and wherein the other of the pivot housings nonrotatably engages the second support member and pivotally engages the first support member.

5. The infant bather of claim **1**, wherein each of the lower sections comprises a foot for supporting the infant bather on a surface, with the foot having a longitudinal channel therein into which said lower section is set.

6. The infant bather of claim **1**, wherein each of the lower sections includes a horizontally running portion having an undersurface, wherein the flexible water bath includes an underside having a bottom-most section, wherein the bottom-most section of the underside of the flexible water bath is disposed above the undersurfaces of the horizontally running portions of the lower sections of the first and second support members, and wherein the bottom-most section of the underside of the flexible water bath is disposed below each of the first and second pivot housings.

7. An infant bather having a head end and a foot end, comprising:

a) a first support member having an upper section and a lower section, the first support member being elongate;

b) a second support member having an upper section and a lower section, the second support member being elongate, the second support member being pivotally engaged to the first support member at each of the head end and foot end of the infant bather;

c) a flexible water bath engaged between the upper section of the first support member and the upper section of the second support member, the flexible water bath folding out to an open configuration when the first and second support members are pivoted one way, and the flexible water bath folding in to a closed configuration when the first and second support members are pivoted the other way;

d) wherein the frame comprises a first pivot housing adjacent the head end of the infant bather and a second pivot housing adjacent the foot end of the infant bather, wherein said pivot housings engage the first and second support members, wherein one pivot housing nonrotatably engages the first support member and pivotally engages the second support member, and wherein the other of the pivot housings nonrotatably engages the second support member and pivotally engages the first support member;

e) said first pivot housing comprising a first pivot block;

f) said second pivot housing comprising a second pivot block;

g) said first pivot block having a first channel running diametrically therethrough, said first channel receiving said first support member;

h) said second pivot block having a second channel running diametrically therethrough, said second channel receiving said second support member;

i) said first pivot block having a pair of first stops, each of the first stops projecting transversely of the second support member to stop the second support member from rotating in one direction, said first stops being positioned diametrically opposite each other; and

j) said second pivot block having a pair of second stops, each of the second stops projecting transversely of the first support member to stop the first support member from rotating in one direction, said second stops being positioned diametrically opposite each other.

8. The infant bather of claim **7**, wherein each of the first and second support members is endless, wherein each of the first and second support members defines respective first and sec-

ond loops, wherein the first loop passes through the second loop, and wherein the second loop passes through the first loop.

9. An infant bather having a head end and a foot end, comprising:

a) a frame having an open configuration and a closed configuration, the frame having a first support member and a second support member, the first support member being pivotally engaged to the second support member such that the first and second support members pivot relative to each other to open the frame from the closed configuration and to close the frame from the open configuration;

b) a flexible water bath engaged to the frame, the flexible water bath being watertight, the flexible water bath folding closed when the frame is closed from the open configuration to the closed configuration, the flexible water bath folding open when the frame is opened from the closed configuration to the open configuration;

c) wherein each of the first and second support members comprise first and second endless elongate support members, respectively, such that each of the first and second support members defines respective first and second endless loops, wherein the first endless support member passes through the second endless loop, and wherein the second endless support member passes through the first endless loop;

d) wherein the frame comprises a first pivot housing adjacent the head end of the infant bather and a second pivot housing adjacent the foot end of the infant bather, wherein said pivot housings engage the first and second support members, wherein at one of the pivot housings the first support member is disposed inwardly of the second support member, and wherein at the other of the pivot housings the second support member is disposed inwardly of the first support member;

e) wherein each of the first and second support members comprises upper and lower sections, wherein in the open configuration the upper section of the first support member confronts the lower section of the second support member and the lower section of the first support member confronts the upper section of the second support member, and wherein in the closed configuration the upper sections of the first and second support members confront each other and the lower sections of the first and second support members confront each other;

f) said first pivot housing comprising a first pivot block;

g) said second pivot housing comprising a second pivot block;

h) said first pivot block having a first channel running diametrically therethrough, said first channel receiving said first support member;

i) said second pivot block having a second channel running diametrically therethrough, said second channel receiving said second support member;

j) said first pivot block having a pair of first seats, each of the first seats running radially in said first pivot block, said first seats being diametrically opposite of each other, each of said first seats seating said second support member when said frame is in said open configuration; and

k) said second pivot block having a pair of second seats, each of the second seats running radially in said second pivot block, said second seats being diametrically opposite of each other, each of the second seats seating said first support member when said frame is in said open configuration.

10. An infant bather having a head end and a foot end, comprising:

a) a frame having an open configuration and a closed configuration, the frame having a first support member and a second support member, the first support member being pivotally engaged to the second support member such that the first and second support members pivot relative to each other to open the frame from the closed configuration and to close the frame from the open configuration;

b) a flexible water bath engaged to the frame, the flexible water bath being watertight, the flexible water bath folding closed when the frame is closed from the open configuration to the closed configuration, the flexible water bath folding open when the frame is opened from the closed configuration to the open configuration;

c) wherein each of the first and second support members comprise first and second endless elongate support members, respectively, such that each of the first and second support members defines respective first and second endless loops, wherein the first endless support member passes through the second endless loop, and wherein the second endless support member passes through the first endless loop;

d) wherein the frame comprises a first pivot housing adjacent the head end of the infant bather and a second pivot housing adjacent the foot end of the infant bather, wherein said pivot housings engage the first and second support members, wherein at one of the pivot housings the first support member is disposed inwardly of the second support member, and wherein at the other of the pivot housings the second support member is disposed inwardly of the first support member;

e) wherein each of the first and second support members comprises upper and lower sections, wherein in the open configuration the upper section of the first support member confronts the lower section of the second support member and the lower section of the first support member confronts the upper section of the second support member, and wherein in the closed configuration the upper sections of the first and second support members confront each other and the lower sections of the first and second support members confront each other;

f) said first pivot housing comprising a first pivot block having a first sidewall and a first face;

g) said second pivot housing comprising a second pivot block having a second sidewall and a second face;

h) said first pivot block having a first channel running diametrically therethrough, said first channel receiving said first support member;

i) said second pivot block having a second channel running diametrically therethrough, said second channel receiving said second support member;

j) said first pivot block having a pair of first ridges, each of the first ridges having two first ridge ends, one first ridge end confronting said first channel, the other first ridge end confronting the first sidewall of said first pivot block, said first ridge running parallel to said second support member when said frame is in said open configuration, said first ridge being a protrusion relative to said first face, said second support member popping into and out of a first plane when said second support member is rotated over said first ridge, said first ridge working as a first stop to minimize unintended closing of said frame from said open configuration; and

k) said second pivot block having a pair of second ridges, each of the second ridges having two second ridge ends,

one second ridge end confronting said second channel, the other second ridge end confronting the second sidewall of said second pivot block, said second ridge running parallel to said first support member when said frame is in said open configuration, said second ridge being a protrusion relative to said second face, said first support member popping into and out of a second plane when said first support member is rotated over said second ridge, said second ridge working as a second stop to minimize unintended closing of said frame from said open configuration.

11. An infant bather having a head end and a foot end, comprising:

a) a frame having an open configuration and a closed configuration, the frame having a first support member and a second support member, the first support member being pivotally engaged to the second support member such that the first and second support members pivot relative to each other to open the frame from the closed configuration and to close the frame from the open configuration;

b) a flexible water bath engaged to the frame, the flexible water bath being watertight, the flexible water bath folding closed when the frame is closed from the open configuration to the closed configuration, the flexible water bath folding open when the frame is opened from the closed configuration to the open configuration;

c) wherein each of the first and second support members comprise first and second endless elongate support members, respectively, such that each of the first and second support members defines respective first and second endless loops, wherein the first endless support member passes through the second endless loop, and wherein the second endless support member passes through the first endless loop;

d) wherein the frame comprises a first pivot housing adjacent the head end of the infant bather and a second pivot housing adjacent the foot end of the infant bather, wherein said pivot housings engage the first and second support members, wherein at one of the pivot housings the first support member is disposed inwardly of the second support member, and wherein at the other of the pivot housings the second support member is disposed inwardly of the first support member;

e) wherein each of the first and second support members comprises upper and lower sections, wherein in the open configuration the upper section of the first support member confronts the lower section of the second support member and the lower section of the first support member confronts the upper section of the second support member, and wherein in the closed configuration the upper sections of the first and second support members confront each other and the lower sections of the first and second support members confront each other;

f) said first pivot housing comprising a first pivot block;

g) said second pivot housing comprising a second pivot block;

h) said first pivot block having a first channel running diametrically therethrough, said first channel receiving said first support member;

i) said second pivot block having a second channel running diametrically therethrough, said second channel receiving said second support member;

j) said first pivot block having a pair of first seats, a pair of first stops, and a pair of first ridges, each of the first seats being defined on one side by a face of said first stop, each of said first seats being defined on the other side by one of said first ridges, said first seats seating the second support member, said first stops minimizing unintended further opening of said frame from said open configuration, said first ridges minimizing unintended closing of said frame from said open configuration; and

k) said second pivot block having a pair of second seats, a pair of second stops, and a pair of second ridges, each of the second seats being defined on one side by a face of said second stop, each of said second seats being defined on the other side by one of said second ridges, said second seats seating the first support member, said second stops minimizing unintended further opening of said frame from said open configuration, said first ridges minimizing unintended closing of said frame from said open configuration.

12. An infant bather having a head end and a foot end, comprising:

a) a first support member having an upper section and a lower section, the first support member being elongate;

b) a second support member having an upper section and a lower section, the second support member being elongate, the second support member being pivotally engaged to the first support member at each of the head end and foot end of the infant bather;

c) a flexible water bath engaged between the upper section of the first support member and the upper section of the second support member, the flexible water bath folding out to an open configuration when the first and second support members are pivoted one way, and the flexible water bath folding in to a closed configuration when the first and second support members are pivoted the other way;

d) wherein the frame comprises a first pivot housing adjacent the head end of the infant bather and a second pivot housing adjacent the foot end of the infant bather, wherein said pivot housings engage the first and second support members, wherein one pivot housing nonrotatably engages the first support member and pivotally engages the second support member, and wherein the other of the pivot housings nonrotatably engages the second support member and pivotally engages the first support member;

e) said first pivot housing comprising a first pivot block;

f) said second pivot housing comprising a second pivot block;

g) said first pivot block having a first channel running diametrically therethrough, said first channel receiving said first support member;

h) said second pivot block having a second channel running diametrically therethrough, said second channel receiving said second support member;

i) said first pivot block having a pair of first seats, each of the first seats running radially in said first pivot block, said first seats being diametrically opposite of each other, each of said first seats seating said second support member when said frame is in said open configuration; and

j) said second pivot block having a pair of second seats, each of the second seats running radially in said second pivot block, said second seats being diametrically opposite of each other, each of the second seats seating said first support member when said frame is in said open configuration.

13. An infant bather having a head end and a foot end, comprising:

a) a first support member having an upper section and a lower section, the first support member being elongate;

b) a second support member having an upper section and a lower section, the second support member being elongate, the second support member being pivotally engaged to the first support member at each of the head end and foot end of the infant bather;

c) a flexible water bath engaged between the upper section of the first support member and the upper section of the second support member, the flexible water bath folding out to an open configuration when the first and second support members are pivoted one way, and the flexible water bath folding in to a closed configuration when the first and second support members are pivoted the other way;

d) wherein the frame comprises a first pivot housing adjacent the head end of the infant bather and a second pivot housing adjacent the foot end of the infant bather, wherein said pivot housings engage the first and second support members, wherein one pivot housing nonrotatably engages the first support member and pivotally engages the second support member, and wherein the other of the pivot housings nonrotatably engages the second support member and pivotally engages the first support member;

e) said first pivot housing comprising a first pivot block having a first sidewall and a first face;

f) said second pivot housing comprising a second pivot block having a second sidewall and a second face;

g) said first pivot block having a first channel running diametrically therethrough, said first channel receiving said first support member;

h) said second pivot block having a second channel running diametrically therethrough, said second channel receiving said second support member;

i) said first pivot block having a pair of first ridges, each of the first ridges having two first ridge ends, one first ridge end confronting said first channel, the other first ridge end confronting the first sidewall of said first pivot block, said first ridge running parallel to said second support member when said frame is in said open configuration, said first ridge being a protrusion relative to said first face, said second support member popping into and out of a first plane when said second support member is rotated over said first ridge, said first ridge working as a first stop to minimize unintended closing of said frame from said open configuration; and

j) said second pivot block having a pair of second ridges, each of the second ridges having two second ridge ends, one second ridge end confronting said second channel, the other second ridge end confronting the second sidewall of said second pivot block, said second ridge running parallel to said first support member when said frame is in said open configuration, said second ridge being a protrusion relative to said second face, said first support member popping into and out of a second plane when said first support member is rotated over said second ridge, said second ridge working as a second stop to minimize unintended closing of said frame from said open configuration.

14. An infant bather having a head end and a foot end, comprising:

a) a first support member having an upper section and a lower section, the first support member being elongate;

b) a second support member having an upper section and a lower section, the second support member being elongate, the second support member being pivotally engaged to the first support member at each of the head end and foot end of the infant bather;

c) a flexible water bath engaged between the upper section of the first support member and the upper section of the second support member, the flexible water bath folding out to an open configuration when the first and second support members are pivoted one way, and the flexible water bath folding in to a closed configuration when the first and second support members are pivoted the other way;

d) wherein the frame comprises a first pivot housing adjacent the head end of the infant bather and a second pivot housing adjacent the foot end of the infant bather, wherein said pivot housings engage the first and second support members, wherein one pivot housing nonrotatably engages the first support member and pivotally engages the second support member, and wherein the other of the pivot housings nonrotatably engages the second support member and pivotally engages the first support member;

e) said first pivot housing comprising a first pivot block;

f) said second pivot housing comprising a second pivot block;

g) said first pivot block having a first channel running diametrically therethrough, said first channel receiving said first support member;

h) said second pivot block having a second channel running diametrically therethrough, said second channel receiving said second support member;

i) said first pivot block having a pair of first seats, a pair of first stops, and a pair of first ridges, each of the first seats being defined on one side by a face of said first stop, each of said first seats being defined on the other side by one of said first ridges, said first seats seating the second support member, said first stops minimizing unintended further opening of said frame from said open configuration, said first ridges minimizing unintended closing of said frame from said open configuration; and

j) said second pivot block having a pair of second seats, a pair of second stops, and a pair of second ridges, each of the second seats being defined on one side by a face of said second stop, each of said second seats being defined on the other side by one of said second ridges, said second seats seating the first support member, said second stops minimizing unintended further opening of said frame from said open configuration, said first ridges minimizing unintended closing of said frame from said open configuration.

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